

BILLERICA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

March 6, 2024

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A meeting of the Billerica Scholarship Foundation was held on March 6, 2024, in the Collins Room at Billerica Town Hall. 2024 APR 16 AM 9:38
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Brenda MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:11PM.

Members present who constituted a quorum: Larry Norman, Jim Spinale, Patty Membrino, Brenda MacDonald, Tracy DeJoy, Jim Gately, Sean Simonini, Al Tassone, Mike Rosa, and Sharon Ferris. On speaker phone: MaryAnne Durand. Those who were absent: Darlene Torre. Also in attendance: Denise Salemon and Dana Reardon

The Secretary's report of the February minutes was presented. Larry Norman made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mike Rosa. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Dine to Donate – Tracy DeJoy was talking about the event on Monday at Hanley's. When she was there, the bartender was asking people if they were part of the scholarship and was adding them to count for us. She is waiting for the total from them. She is also waiting to hear from Mike at the Newtowne Grille.

Savers Drive – Brenda MacDonald told us that there are promos on facebook for this drive in April. We are looking for clothes, linens, and books. This will be for the benefit of the class of 2025. We will not be getting a storage unit this time.

Class of Raffle – April 1–April 30. Brenda MacDonald reported that the tickets have gone to Darlene Torre for stapling. The class year-not grade- is on the tickets. The cost of printing tickets is \$990, which is up from last year, but not by much. We are still collecting superlative prizes. Brenda has finished all the letters that go out. Sharon Ferris has ordered supplies. Darlene, Brenda, and Sharon will meet to put together the packets. Hopefully, people will return unsold tickets as we will be able to use them again. Brenda said we did not order as many of the 4th and 3rd grade classes' tickets. She explained a little more about the fundraiser to our visitors. Mike Rosa has confirmed the drawing to be at O'Connor's again this year. May 17 is the tentative date. We will reach out to Marshall's to see if they want to take part in the drawing, since they are donating the second-place prize.

PTO Collaborations – Brenda MacDonald told us that Sharon Ferris had met someone from the Parker PTO at the bank. Brenda has been talking with the PTO. They have a meeting April 9th, so if anyone can go to that meeting, it would be helpful. Hopefully, Jim Gately will be able to attend. Brenda asked Darlene Torre to reach out to the other school PTOs. Sharon Ferris told us that she recently baked some items for a bake sale that the Dutile PTO had. She told them the items were from the Scholarship Foundation. She said this is an example of ways we could help them in hopes of good working relationship with PTOs. Tracy DeJoy brought up that the Kennedy School is having a craft fair. We did not think we would be able to be a part of it.

Corresponding Secretary's report – Sharon Ferris said she is up to date. She just received another donation to the Jamie McDermott scholarship.

Raffle Ticket Fundraiser – Sharon Ferris reported that the tickets sold out in record time. We need to pull the winning ticket. We sell only 100 tickets per raffle, but we usually have more people wanting to buy so

Mike asked about the possibility of changing the date. We would like to have the money in for scholarships by March 1. Sharon Ferris said that as long as we have the money by awarding, it would be fine. There was discussion in the group, and it seems best to leave it when it is-it is a known date by our players and a tradition, and we do not want to run into other organizations' events.

Awards and Scholarships – Sharon Ferris told us that there is a problem with on-line applications. The FAFSA is far behind, and parents are upset that they do not have their numbers yet. Only a handful of the scholarships we give out are need based. Sharon is telling them to use estimates to put in the family contribution section. The application requires you to put in a number in order to move forward. Sharon said she will put out a message to tell people to use the estimator to get the number. The old EFC was based on the student's first, second or third choice schools. The new index will be based on what parents can give. Will look at whether receiving Pell Grant or not-indicates need. MaryAnne Durand asked if we should reach out to guidance, but Sharon said they are reaching out to us. Tracy DeJoy wondered if we could ask Dollars for Scholars to amend their program. Sharon explained that we all do not award at the same times so National would not change it. So far 54 students have started the process-most are incomplete. The meetings for scoring and awarding will be in our meeting room at 6:30pm. Al Tassone asked if there was a way to do the scoring electronically rather than Sharon printing out all the papers. Sharon said it is nicer to be able to all meet together and answer any questions. Patty Membrino asked Sharon if in the application we say how many scholarships we are giving or the amount for a particular scholarship. Sharon said there are no dollar values and no numbers of awards listed. Brenda MacDonald wanted to talk about the amounts of the scholarships. Everything is so expensive. \$500 or \$800 scholarships are not making much of a dent. The scholarships we -the Foundation-give out should be \$1000. The funds we raise are pooled and we take from that to fund our scholarships. We name some of our scholarships after a particular fundraiser and that helps to advertise that fundraiser. We should do one named scholarship for the minimum amount regardless of how much we raised in that fundraiser. It is all coming from the same pool. Sharon thinks the tax insert scholarship should be separated, because of the way we receive the funds. We should round up to \$1000. If we get more, give more under the tax insert scholarship. Patty Membrino proposed that our scholarships be raised to \$1500. A lot of students do not want to bother applying because the amounts are low. Sean Simonini said that is true, and Jim Gately said he has heard that also. Sharon said we award the highest amount scholarship (\$4000) first to highest scoring student who applied. Then we go to the next highest, down to the lowest. She was concerned about our scholarships being higher than some of the others offered by other donors with specific requirements. It may require a little more juggling. Brenda said she was going to reach out to Enterprise Bank to see if they will increase their scholarship or combine the two \$500 into one \$1000. There was some discussion about increasing ours to \$1500. Some were concerned that we would be giving out less scholarships. Patty said we have been having a tough time getting applicants, so it probably will not make too much of a difference. She also said that if we have a year where we do not raise a lot of money, we could think about putting the scholarships back to \$1000. Jim Gately said that ultimately, we are trying to make an impact. Mike Rosa made a motion to increase the scholarship foundation awards to \$1500; Jim Gately seconded. Larry Norman and Jim Spinale were opposed; the rest of the committee present voted yes-Brenda, Sharon, Patty, Mike, Jim Gately, Al Tassone, Tracy, and Sean. MaryAnne Durand left the meeting about 8:22pm and was not present for the vote. Larry wanted it to be noted that he was not against increasing the dollar amount, he was just concerned about less students receiving awards. It was clarified that the named foundation scholarships are also part of the \$1500 limit.